

10-7-1858

Typed letter from Floride Calhoun to Anna Clemson, 1858 October 7

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Recommended Citation

"Typed letter from Floride Calhoun to Anna Clemson, 1858 October 7" (1858). *Thomas Green Clemson Papers, Mss 2*. 615.

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III

Mi Casa

October 7, 1858.

My dear child

I am glad to find you so composed, for although unprepared for the event, it was not unexpected, as our dear Willy, has not enjoyed one hours health, for more than a year, still so buoyant was his spirits, as to deceive every one, but those immediately around him. While in Florida last winter, he left me, to visit for a short time his plantation in company with Judge Putnam, when they reached Jacksonville, he had a hemorage of the throat, which was so sever, and painful, as to alarm both of them, supposing he must die, and instead of returning to St. Augustine, he continued on, had a perilous and fatiguing journey, and was obliged to return, without going to his plantation, although so near as Abbeville Courthouse, after he reached us was ill, but as soon as he was able to go about he went with a party several miles to fish and hunt, camped out, and took a violent cold and cough, which never left him afterwards, so you see his death was hastened by continual imprudencices, as well as our dear Patricks, I think he would have been alive now, had he gone to Europe, or St. Augustine in time, but these things we can talk of now, when all is over with them. You ought to caution Calhoun, or he may neglect his health, living in so cold a climate as Washington. Throat affections have become very prevalent everywhere, and ought to be attended to at once, or they will end in consumption. I have just received Mr. Chambers, letter, and thank him, for the kind feelings expressed in it, and were it in my power, would come on, but it is too near winter in the first place, again I must be here when James arrives, and then Kate, is with me, and so feeble, as to require me continually with her. She has not yet left her room, and has much palpitation of the heart, which alarms her at times. The babe is looking frail, still I think may live, with care. Johnney, does not look well, but does not complain. Benny is with his (pasd) parents, in St. Augtine, in fine health. Your Uncle James, was with us a week, he looks dreadfully, and says I have met with an irreparable (inexpressable) loss, but his is more than he can bear, as Willy, was the apple of his eye, has nearly killed him. I feel uneasy about him, as he was compelled to leave, with a fever on him, which caused him a sleepless night, but after breakfast he ordered his carriage and left saying he had several sick negros, and left Willys affairs in as unsettled way, and was obliged to leave.

(Insert after eye above: eye, and he thought he could stand anything, but Willey's death has nearly killed him.)

hemorrhage

grand
irreparable

He was delighted with my place, and everything about it, said it was a judicious purchase, and he thinks cheap. Kates idea at present is to live at their place in Abbeville but James opposes it, as she is not calentated to live on a plantation, or to manage Negros, of course she will spend her winters, in St. Augustine, ~~whieh~~ while her parents live, and ought to stay with me during the summer, and I hope to do so. Say to Mr. Clemson, from me, that he must not refuse to let Floride, come on with James, and spend the winter with me either here, or in St. Augustine, the latter place, will suit her exactly, being a mild climate, and we will be with Kate, at no expense of course, but fate, decrees all my movements, so do not know which I will do, but either place, will be better for her than the North. Tell him I will take no refusal, and will take all the care I can of her. Kate, Mrs. Pike, and Mrs. Rion join me in love to you and the children, remember me to Mr. Clemson, and kiss dear little Cornelia for me.

calculated

Your ever devoted daughter[?]

Floride Calhoun